

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A tip rack for holding a plurality of pipette tips that have been removed from a plurality of pipettes, thereby causing static electricity to be deposited on the pipette tips, the tip rack comprising:

- a. a face having a plurality of seats formed thereon for holding pipette tips; and
- b. at least one sidewall depending from the face;

wherein the face and the at least one sidewall are comprised of an electrically conductive plastic material, wherein the face and the at least one sidewall form an outer shell, and the tip rack further comprises a support insert connected to the outer shell, wherein the support insert comprises a plurality of support walls that form chambers dimensioned to receive the pipette tips, whereby static electricity deposited on the pipette tips is discharged through the tip rack when the pipette tips contact the tip rack.

2. (Currently amended) The tip rack of claim 1 wherein the face and the at least one sidewall form a one-piece conductive outer shell comprises a one-piece conductive outer shell, and the tip rack further comprises a support insert connected to the conductive outer shell such that the support insert is covered by the conductive outer shell.

3. (Currently amended) The tip rack of claim 2 wherein the support insert is covered by the conductive outer shell comprises a plurality of support walls that form chambers dimensioned to receive the pipette tips.

4. (Original) The tip rack of claim 1 wherein the face and the at least one sidewall are formed of a conductive plastic material impregnated with carbon.
5. (Currently amended) The tip rack of claim [[4]] 1 wherein the conductive plastic material comprises about 15% or more carbon, by weight.
6. (Currently amended) The tip rack of claim [[5]] 1 wherein the conductive plastic material comprises about 21 % carbon, by weight.
7. (Original) The tip rack of claim 1 wherein the face and the at least one sidewall are formed of a conductive plastic material impregnated with metal flakes, metal powder or metal strands.
8. (Original) A method of discharging static electricity from a plurality of pipette tips held by a plurality of pipettes, the method comprising:
 - a. providing a tip rack comprised of an electrically conductive plastic material, the tip rack including a face with a plurality of seats formed thereon for holding pipette tips;
 - b. removing the plurality of pipette tips from the plurality of pipettes; and
 - c. seating the plurality of pipette tips in the plurality of seats such that the static electricity deposited on the pipette tips is discharged through the tip rack when the pipette tips are contacted with the tip rack.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the static electricity is discharged through the tip rack by conducting the static electricity to ground when the pipette tips are contacted with the tip rack.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the static electricity is discharged through the tip rack by dissipating the static electricity on the surface of the tip rack when the pipette tips are contacted with the tip rack.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the tip rack includes a one-piece conductive outer shell comprising the face, and the tip rack further includes a support insert connected to the conductive outer shell such that the support insert is covered by the conductive outer shell.
12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of removing the plurality of pipette tips from the plurality of pipettes results in the generation of additional static electricity on the pipette tips that is discharged through the tip rack when the pipette tips are contacted with the tip rack.
13. (Cancelled) ~~In a tip rack for use with a plurality of pipette tips, the plurality of pipette tips having static electricity deposited thereon as a result of friction between the plurality of pipette tips and a plurality of pipettes when the plurality of pipette tips are inserted on and removed from the plurality of pipettes, and the tip rack comprising a face having a plurality of seats formed thereon for holding pipette tips and at least one sidewall depending from the face, the improvement comprising:~~
~~the tip rack being formed of an electrically conductive plastic material whereby static electricity deposited on the pipette tips is discharged through the tip rack when the pipette tips contact the tip rack.~~
14. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 13 wherein the face and the at least one sidewall form a one-piece conductive outer shell, and the tip rack further comprises a support insert connected to the conductive outer shell such that the support insert is covered by the conductive outer shell.~~
15. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 14 wherein the support insert is formed of non-conductive polypropylene.~~

16. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 14 wherein the support insert is formed of conductive plastic material.~~
17. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 13 wherein the tip rack is formed of a conductive plastic material impregnated with carbon.~~
18. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 17 wherein the conductive plastic material comprises about 15% or more carbon, by weight.~~
19. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 17 wherein the conductive plastic material comprises about 21 % carbon, by weight.~~
20. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 13 wherein the tip rack is formed of a conductive plastic material impregnated with metal flakes, metal powder or metal strands.~~
21. (Currently amended) A tip rack for holding a plurality of pipette tips that have been removed from a plurality of pipettes, thereby causing static electricity to be deposited on the pipette tips, the tip rack comprising:

an outer shell;
a support insert connected to the outer shell, wherein the support insert comprises a plurality of support walls that form chambers dimensioned to receive the pipette tips;
and;
a plurality of seats designed and dimensioned to hold the pipette tips, wherein the plurality of seats are comprised of an electrically conductive plastic material operable to discharge static electricity deposited on the pipette tips through the tip rack when the pipette tips contact the tip rack.
22. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 21 wherein the plurality of seats are formed in a face of the tip rack and at least one sidewall depends from the face.

23. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 22 wherein the face and the at least one sidewall form a one-piece conductive outer shell, and the tip rack further comprises a support insert connected to the conductive outer shell such that the support insert is covered by the conductive outer shell.
24. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 23 wherein the support insert comprises a plurality of support walls that form chambers dimensioned to receive the pipette tips.
25. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 21 wherein the plurality of seats are formed of a conductive plastic material impregnated with carbon.
26. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 25 wherein the conductive plastic material comprises about 15% or more carbon, by weight.
27. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 26 wherein the conductive plastic material comprises about 21 % carbon, by weight.
28. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 21 wherein the plurality of seats are formed of a conductive plastic material impregnated with metal flakes, metal powder or metal strands.
29. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 21 wherein the plurality of seats are retained on the tip rack by a support insert.
30. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 29 wherein the support insert comprises an electrically conductive plastic material.
31. (Previously presented) The tip rack of claim 29 wherein the support insert comprises a non-conductive plastic material.
32. (Currently amended) A tip rack operable to hold a plurality of pipette tips that have been removed from a plurality of pipettes, with static electricity present on the

pipette tips, the tip rack comprising:

a face comprising a plurality of seats designed and dimensioned to hold the plurality of pipette tips; and

a support insert connected to the face, wherein the support insert comprises a plurality of support walls that form chambers dimensioned to receive the pipette tips;

wherein the tip rack is comprised of an electrically conductive plastic material operable to discharge the static electricity deposited on the pipette tips through the tip rack when the pipette tips contact the tip rack.

33. (Currently amended) The ~~tip rack of claim 32~~ method of claim 8 wherein ~~the tip rack is grounded such that static electricity flowing~~ discharged through the tip rack is directed to ground.

34. (Currently amended) The ~~tip rack of claim 32~~ method of claim 8 wherein ~~the tip rack is designed and dimensioned to dissipate static electricity~~ discharged through the tip rack is dissipated on the electrically conductive plastic material.

35. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 32 wherein the plurality of pipette tips that the seats are designed and dimensioned to hold are pipette tips that are configured for insertion on the pipettes of a multiple pipette device configured for use with a laboratory microplate.~~

36. (Cancelled) ~~The tip rack of claim 35 wherein the microplate is a 384 well microplate.~~